



SRC NewsFlash

A Summary of News, Messages, and
Facts from the Senate Republican Caucus

SRC Calendar: January 17 - 21

Monday, Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- 10 a.m.** ✓ **Senate Gov't Operations & Elections Committee:** Work session on election reform, SHR 4 (TVW)
 ✓ **Senate Labor, Commerce, R&D Committee:** Work session on retro programs and hearing on tobacco sampling bill (SB 5048), SHR 2
- Noon** **Pro Forma Session**
- 3:30 p.m.** ✓ **Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee:** Hearing on Medical malpractice liability initiatives, SHR 4 (TVW)

Tuesday, Jan. 18

- 7:15 a.m.** ✓ **Tuesday Morning Fellowship:** JAC ABC
- 8 a.m.** ✓ **Senate Gov't Operations & Elections Committee:** Work session on performance audits, SHR 2
- 10 a.m.** ✓ **Senate Republican Caucus**
- 11 a.m.** ✓ **Pro Form Session**
- 11:45 a.m.** ✓ **Joint Session: State of the Judiciary**
- 1:30 p.m.** ✓ **Senate Transportation Committee:** Work session on roadway debris and other safety issues; hearing on driving with cell phones, SHR 1 (TVW)
- 3:30 p.m.** ✓ **Senate Judiciary Committee:** Hearing on increasing penalties for failure to yield to emergency vehicles or police vehicles, SHR 1 (TVW)

Wednesday, Jan. 19: March for Life Rally

- 8 a.m.** ✓ **Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee:** Wk. session on prescription drugs, SHR 4
- 1:30 p.m.** ✓ **Senate Transportation Committee:** Work session on safety of Alaskan Way Viaduct & SR 520, SHR 1 (TVW)

Thursday, Jan. 20: ABATE Black Thursday

- 8 a.m.** ✓ **Senate Gov't Operations & Elections Committee:** Wk. session on GMA Work Group, SHR 2
 ✓ **Senate Labor, Commerce, R&D Committee:** Wk. session on apprenticeship and hearing on SB 5097, requiring apprenticeships on public works projects, SHR 4
- 10 a.m.** ✓ **Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee:** Work session on tent city, SHR 2
- 3:30 p.m.** ✓ **Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Ed Committee:** Wk. session on higher ed admission standards and remediation, SHR1 (TVW)

Friday, Jan. 21

- 10 a.m.** ✓ **Senate Session**

Pulse of the people

Priorities: According to the January 2005 Elway Poll, the top issues for those polled were:

- ✓ Economy (24 percent)
- ✓ Education (23 percent)
- ✓ Taxation (17 percent)
- ✓ Health care (16 percent)
- ✓ Gov't spending (16 percent)
- ✓ Transportation (10 percent)
- ✓ Social issues (8 percent)
- ✓ Election reform (4 percent)
- ✓ Tort reform (3 percent)

Confidence: Only 37 percent of those polled said they thought the Legislature would "make progress on issues they care about and agree with."

This is down from 49 percent in 1998 — **when Republicans held majorities in both the House & the Senate.**

News

Under The Dome (*The Olympian*, 1/13/05): Republicans might be in the minority in the House and Senate, but **Sen. Joseph Zarelli, R-Ridgefield**, isn't going quietly into his new, minority-voice role. He launched a weekly e-mail feature Wednesday called "**Budget Tidbits..just the facts**" for Capitol watchers. "We just want to share some facts so as we go through the budget process, members as well as staff and constituents aren't operating in a vacuum," Zarelli said Wednesday.

Resist the urge for more taxes (*The Seattle Times*, 1/11/05)
 As legislators tackle a state budget that has a \$1.8 billion hole, they should consider the plight of their constituents from Seattle to Spokane, Walla Walla to Wahkiakum.
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/editorialsopinion/2002147274_sessioned11.html

Courtesy of Sen. Jim Honeyford, Senate Republican Caucus Chair

* To submit an item or correction, contact Communications Director Janelle Guthrie at 360-786-7516 or guthrie_ja@leg.wa.gov*